



Our Year in the Squirrels 2016-2017

This year has been a successful year in nursery - as always! The children have responded well to the opportunities that we have provided and have made good progress in all areas of their development.

At the beginning of the year Miss Bond and I spent some time carrying out home visits, which we feel provides a good basis for relationships between staff, parents and the children. This year the majority of children have attended full time sessions and this has had a positive impact on the progress the children have made.

To welcome the children into nursery we followed a staggered entry procedure which enabled the children to build up relationships with the staff in smaller groups and by half term the majority of children walked happily through the door with a smile on their faces.

The Autumn term began with a *Getting to Know You* topic which allowed children to build new relationships with peers and staff and feel more secure in their new environment. We also welcomed our parents to a coffee afternoon as well a Stay and Play session in the nursery, giving them the opportunity to see some of the learning that had taken place and look and comment on their child's Learning Journey file.



We then focused on the season of Autumn, looking at all the changes in the garden as well as using some of the natural materials to support counting and to develop the children's artistic talents. We also used the wilderness area to retell stories such as a bear hunt!



Barbara Penaluna



Also during the Autumn term, the children participated in activities to celebrate Bridgewater's 10th birthday.

In order to extend children's imaginative play and understanding of number an additional role play McDonald's area was set up in the nursery. Whilst engaging in the restaurant, children learned to count 1:1, recite and recognise numerals, make marks on paper. They also learned to share, turn take and engage in an imaginative world based on their own personal experiences.



Towards the end of the Autumn term the children enjoyed engaging with a Christmas theme, learning the story of the first Christmas, participating in the foundation stage nativity, visiting the Metro Centre to see the Christmas decorations as well as a visit to build a bear to make our attendance bear. We made Christmas cards, decorations and magic reindeer dust. The term was finished off with our annual Christmas party and visit from Santa Claus himself!



Barbara Penaluna

The spring term, saw children focus more on math skills, early mark making and Pancake Day. The children were lucky to experience some forest school sessions where they planted herbs for our outdoor area. We also welcomed the parents for another stay and play which was very popular.



The children celebrated Chinese New Year. We made lanterns and enjoyed taking part in a dragon dance outdoors. We also had the opportunity to taste some Chinese food, we all tried noodles, spring rolls and prawn crackers, they were very tasty.



During the second half of the spring term, we enjoyed a visit from Liz Millions when she told us a story and drew some illustrations to go with it, the children really enjoyed this session. The spring term also allowed the children to learn about Easter and we made cards as well as making chocolate Easter nests.



During the spring term the children looked at some traditional tales and they can tell their stories using the talk for writing approach.



During the summer term, we focused on the topic of animals and their babies. The children had the experience of watching caterpillars change into butterflies.



Following children's interest in the animals we arranged a trip to Hall Hill Farm. The children experienced holding baby chick and feeding a lamb. We all had lots of fun!



We then began to focus on a topic of *Growing*. We began by looking at how the children had grown. They each brought a baby picture in so they could look at how much they have changed. We then moved on to looking at how flowers and vegetables grow. The children have planted their own strawberries and flowers and we look forward to watching them grow.



The children took part in enterprise week where we had a visit from the dentist who showed the children how to brush their teeth correctly. We sold ice lollies at home time every night that week to raise money, it was very successful. The children came to school dressed as what they wanted to be when they are older.

This year has also seen the children develop their awareness of the Read Write Inc sounds. We have also been developing children's listening skills early in the year to children being able to rhyme, hear initial sounds in words

We will begin the transition process for the children by allowing them to access reception during outdoor time, so that the children become familiar with their new environment. This will inevitably will make the transition for nursery children into reception smoother in September.

All in all a fun filled, action packed year showing good progress by all children.

We wish all of our children a happy and successful journey through the next stage of their education.